

**Statement by Ambassador Hernan Perez Loose, Chair of the Committee
establish pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

**Lao PDR National Workshop on Effective Implementation of UNSCR
1540 (2004)**

Opening session

28-30 November 2023, Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by expressing, on behalf of Members of the 1540 Committee, our willingness to the Lao People's Democratic Republic for its invitation of the Committee to participate in this national event, which main goal is promoting resolution 1540 implementation.

As you are aware, resolution 1540 (2004) aims to prevent non-state actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

Since its adoption, 19 years ago, resolution 1540 (2004) remains a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture.

It is important to recall that resolution 1540 (2004) affirms that none of the obligations under this resolution shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of State Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention or alter the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. This was reaffirmed in the most recent resolution 2663 adopted on 30 November 2022.

The presence of so many national stakeholders, all of whom have a role to play in the implementation of resolution 1540, is encouraging. We look forward to your active participation in discussions over the next three days.

Allow me to also acknowledge and warmly welcome the participation by international and regional organizations, partner states and specialized

organizations, who will contribute to the Workshop and are able to offer various forms of assistance and support in the implementation of resolution 1540.

To conclude, let me congratulate the Lao People's Democratic Republic on its commitment, including in support of other States' 1540 related events such as recently in Cambodia and Thailand, and the national steps it has already taken and plan to take towards the full and effective implementation of resolution, thereby contributing to achieving the objectives of the resolution to prevent non-state actor proliferation and contributing to international peace and security.

I wish you a fruitful workshop.

Thank you for your attention.